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TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS in Canada

Canada

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FRONT COVER PHOTOS

German immigrants, Quebec City, Quebec, ca. 1911. By William James Topley (PA-010254)

Personnel of the 13th Royal Regiment of Hamilton placed on active service and sent to Prescott, Ont., to guard the frontier during the closing months of the American Civil War, May 1865. (PA-068325)

Noel Marples with his wife Sheila and their nine children upon the family's arrival as immigrants from England. Vancouver, B.C., ca. 1958. Ralph Bower/Vancouver Sun/National Archives of Canada (C-045066)

S.S. Bremen arriving from Germany to dock at Pier 21, Halifax, N.S., April 20, 1957. Unknown photographer. (PA-167656)

BACK COVER PHOTOS

A group of Chipewyan children at Lake Claire, Alberta, 1917. (PA-017926)

Assiniboin Mother and Child, n.d. (C-020815)

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INTRODUCTION

The National Archives of Canada was founded in 1872. In addition to serving as a repository for federal government records of historical value, the National Archives also holds microfilm copies of documents relating to Canadian history in the possession of other governments (principally France and Great Britain) and the papers of individuals who played a significant role in Canadian affairs.

The functions of the National Archives are threefold: to acquire material of historical interest, to preserve this material and to make it available to researchers. This last function, which is of special interest to the genealogist, may sometimes be subject to restrictions placed upon the use of documents by the originating department or donor.

The most popular sources for genealogical research in Canada may be divided into the following categories: census records, vital statistics (records of births, marriages and deaths), land records, wills and estate records, military records and immigration records. Each of these categories is described briefly in the pages that follow. A booklet such as this cannot provide exhaustive listings.

Getting Started

The first step in genealogy is to talk to family members and learn as much as possible about your family's history. Assemble names, dates and places from old family documents such as bibles, wills, marriage certificates, etc. Record each generation, starting with yourself and working backwards from the present.

Next, visit your local library and consult genealogy handbooks. Learn what sources exist for genealogical research and where to find the records.

Besides regular meetings and publications, genealogical societies offer seminars and workshops, which are helpful for both beginners and experienced researchers. Many societies also sell family group sheets and pedigree charts on which family information can be recorded.

Visiting the National Archives

The National Archives observes regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, when consultant services are provided at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa. Reading Rooms, equipped with microfilm readers, are open to researchers as follows:

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., statutory holidays

A personal visit must be made during office hours to obtain a research pass for access to the Reading Rooms. Researchers are encouraged to come as early as possible in the day so as to take full advantage of available reference services.

Writing to the National Archives

Persons who are unable to visit the National Archives can send a written inquiry. Due to the large volume of inquiries we receive, our staff cannot undertake extensive genealogical research assignments. However, if you have specific questions concerning a particular ancestor, we will be pleased to attempt to answer them. Please provide identifying details such as full name, approximate birth and death dates, place of residence, etc.

In many cases, we will provide suggestions for further research, including sources available on microfilm.

Requests can be sent by mail or fax, or using the online forms on our Web site. See the copyright page of this publication for our address.

Microfilm Loans

Many popular genealogical sources are available on microfilm. No single catalogue lists them all. Special catalogues and checklists have been prepared for certain types of material, such as census returns and parish registers. Researchers may consult our microfilm at the National Archives of Canada or through the interinstitutional (interlibrary) loan arrangement.

Any institution that possesses a microfilm reader may borrow, on behalf of their patrons, up to six reels of microfilm at a time for a loan period of six weeks. Requests for loans must be submitted to the National Archives of Canada by the borrowing institution, clearly specifying the sources, volumes and reel numbers required.

Many of the provincial archives and some larger public libraries hold copies of our most requested microfilm.

Internet

Information about the National Archives of Canada can be found on our Internet Web site (www.archives.ca). The section on genealogical sources includes lists of microfilm reel numbers for some of our major collections such as passenger lists. Several online databases are currently available under ArchiviaNet. Other databases will be added as they become available.

You can link to numerous Canadian genealogy Web sites from the CanGen Web Project (www.rootsweb.com/~canwgw/). There are thousands of other sites on the Internet. Many sites have searchable databases, for which there may be a search fee.

Copying Service

For a modest charge, the National Archives of Canada is able to provide photocopies of original documents and reader-printer copies from microfilm. Copyright or access restrictions may prohibit reproduction of some collections. Limitations on the amounts copied are imposed when demands exceed the capacity of the National Archives' facilities. Orders must be prepaid and must include exact references.

Referrals

The Archives maintains a list of freelance researchers willing to perform genealogical research in Ottawa for a fee. While there is no guarantee of the quality of their work, they are familiar with our holdings. If you wish to hire a researcher to conduct a comprehensive search of our sources, we will send you a copy of the list.

The Family History Library

The Family History Library based in Salt Lake City has microfilmed genealogical records from around the world and makes them accessible to all researchers through local Family History Centres. Most records are pre-1900, and the strength of the collection lies in areas outside of Canada, in particular the British Isles and the United States. However, they do have microfilm copies of many vital records, parish registers and other genealogical sources held by various Canadian institutions. To locate the Centre nearest you, consult your telephone book under Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) or visit their Web site (www.familysearch.org/).

German immigrants, Quebec City, Quebec, ca. 1911. By William James Topley (PA-010254)

PUBLISHED SOURCES

Once you have compiled a basic family tree, you should visit your local library and become familiar with the many how-to books available on the subject of genealogy. Whichever publication is consulted, keep in mind that fees, addresses and other details are subject to change, and that errors do occur. The newsletters, journals and other publications of genealogical societies often provide the most up-to-date information.

National Library of Canada

If your library does not hold a copy of a particular publication, an interlibrary loan request can be submitted on your behalf to the National Library of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N4. The National Library has a large collection of published sources that are useful to genealogists, including newspapers, city directories, family and local histories and periodicals of genealogical and historical societies from across Canada.

You can visit the National Library's reference room from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except statutory holidays, or visit their Web site (www.nlc-bnc.ca/). The library also responds to specific reference questions submitted by telephone (613-995-9481), e-mail (reference@nlc-bnc.ca) or in writing.

Geographical Information

Knowing the geography of the area where your ancestors resided is an important aspect of genealogical research. Provincial gazetteers and books on place names can help you identify a particular locality. Names that have been changed can be traced through the Secretariat, Geographical Names Board of Canada, 615 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E9. (http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca). Suggestions on the use of maps can be found by reading Betty M. Kidd's article "Maps in Genealogical Research," published in the Ontario Genealogical Society journal *Families* (vol. 16, no. 4, pages 152-165).

City, county and provincial directories, dating back to the 1840s for some areas, generally offer little beyond an individual's name, address and occupation or status. Nonetheless, they can be helpful in determining the city ward or enumeration district when you are starting a census search. They are also useful in narrowing down the approximate year of arrival or departure in an area, and possible year of death. Since many directories were published by subscription, their coverage is far from complete. Your librarian can consult the *Canadian Directories, 1790-1987: A Bibliography and Place-name Index* (1989) to determine what directories are available and which library holds them. Only microform copies will be available through interinstitutional loan.

The many town, township and county histories are useful in providing information about the early settlement of a region and identifying the location of source materials for further study. Bibliographies of local histories have been published and are available in many libraries. Examples are Barbara B. Aitken's *Local Histories of Ontario Municipalities, 1951-1977: A Bibliography* (1978), and *Local Histories of Ontario Municipalities, 1977-1987* (1989).

A series of county atlases was published in the 1870s and 1880s, covering mainly Prince Edward Island, Ontario, the Eastern Townships of Quebec and scattered counties of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Each volume gives the names of landholders or tenants on each lot, sketches of communities and biographical notes on the prominent citizens, with occasional portraits.

Copies of original and reprinted atlases are available at many libraries, the National Library of Canada and the National Archives of Canada.

Specialized Guides

For the Loyalists, there are a number of studies available. Both Esther Clark Wright's *Loyalists of New Brunswick* (1965) and Marion Gilroy's *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia* (1937) are based on land records in the provincial archives and identify the individual heads of families. W.D. Reid's monograph *Loyalists of Ontario, Sons and Daughters of American Loyalists of Upper Canada* (1973) offers more biographical detail. The *Bibliography of Loyalist Source Materials in Archives in the United States, Canada and Great Britain* (1982) lists not only manuscripts but also newspapers and other printed sources.

Researchers interested in Acadian ancestry can find help in the works of Bona Arsenault: *L'Acadie des ancêtres; avec la généalogie des premières familles acadiennes* and *Histoire et généalogie des Acadiens* (6 volumes, 1978). Arrangement of both works is regional, with alphabetical listings. Also of use is Placide Gaudet's 16 volume study *Généalogies acadiennes* and the *Inventaire général des sources documentaires sur les Acadiens*, produced by the Centre d'études acadiennes at the University of Moncton. For those Acadians who settled in Quebec, you can consult Adrien Bergeron's *Le grand arrangement des acadiens au Québec* (8 volumes, 1981).

For families of French origin, the standard source is Cyprien Tanguay's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes* (7 volumes, 1871-1890), and Joseph Arthur Leboeuf's *Complément au dictionnaire généalogique Tanguay* (3 volumes, 1957-1964), which cover the period from the early 1600s to the late 1700s. René Jetté's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec* (1983) often includes more accurate information, but does not go beyond 1730.

Numerous indexes to Roman Catholic marriages in Quebec and parts of Ontario have been published. The most comprehensive are the Institut généalogique Drouin's *Dictionnaire national des Canadiens-français, 1608-1760* (3 volumes, 1965) and *Répertoire alphabétique des mariages des canadiens-français, 1760-1935* (113 volumes, 1989, 1991). Many of the smaller indexes are listed in Kathleen M. de Varennes' *Annotated Bibliography of Genealogical Works in Canada* (1986).

Of special note are the publications of the Archives nationales du Québec, in particular the *Inventaire des greffes des notaires du Régime français* and the *Inventaire des contrats de mariage sous le Régime français*.

Some obituaries and marriage notices from newspapers and periodicals have been indexed and transcribed. Examples include W.D. Reid's *Marriage Notices of Ontario, 1813-1854* (1980), Rev. D.A. McKenzie's *Death Notices from the Canada Christian Advocate, 1858-1872* (1992), *New Brunswick Vital Statistics from Newspapers* (New Brunswick Genealogical Society, 1982-) and *Births, Deaths, Marriages from Regina Newspapers, 1883-1889* (Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, 1990).

Most provincial archives have prepared booklets or information sheets concerning their sources. Examples are the *Nova Scotia Genealogical Sources County Guide Series* and *Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan*. Detailed guides to sources have also been published for particular provinces, such as *Tracing Your Ancestors in Alberta* by Victoria Lemieux and David Leonard, and *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records* by Brenda Dougall Merriman.

Biographies and Family Histories

A host of biographical reference works offer information about prominent individuals of the past. Among these are the British, American and Canadian editions of *Who's Who;* the *Dictionary of National Biography* (British) and the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*; W.S. Wallace's *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Henry Morgan's *Canadian Men and Women of the Time* (1898 and 1912 editions), and L. LeJeune's *Dictionnaire général du Canada* (two volumes, 1931).

Many family historians deposit copies of their family histories with genealogical societies, archives and libraries in the region where their ancestors resided. The National Library of Canada holds a growing collection of published and unpublished genealogies.

The names of federal civil servants are listed in the *Civil Service List* dating from 1883 to 1918, and the *Blue Book* of 1864, 1866, 1867 and 1872, most of which are indexed. Date of birth, rank, salary and date of appointment can be found in these volumes.

The *Canadian Parliamentary Companion*, later known as the *Parliamentary Guide*, dates from 1862 to the present. These little volumes give biographical sketches of federal and provincial members of the various legislatures. *The Canadian Directory of Parliament 1867-1967* (1968) is a comprehensive biographical reference work for federal members of Parliament.

CENSUS RECORDS

Census records, which contain the official enumeration of our population, are one of the most valuable sources of genealogical information. Returns prior to 1851 usually are either aggregate (containing no names, just statistics) or list only the heads of households and the total number of individuals residing in each household.

For most provinces, the census returns of 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 are nominal, listing each person individually, with details as to age, sex, country or province of birth, religion, ethnic origin, occupation, marital status and education. The 1901 returns also include date of birth, year of immigration, and address or location of land. For 1851, 1861 and 1871, there are some agricultural returns, which give lot and concession numbers of the farm, and provide considerable detail such as acreage, livestock and agricultural products. Additional schedules have survived for the 1871 census, including business returns and schedules of deaths in the preceding year.

In order to undertake a search of our census records, the researcher must know the approximate locality, as the arrangement of the returns is by township within each county. Small towns and villages are enumerated within their respective townships; larger towns and cities are listed separately. In the case of cities, particularly the larger centres, it is very helpful to know the ward in which the person lived.

Some nominal indexes have been compiled and published by various genealogical societies. In particular, the Ontario Genealogical Society has produced a head-of-household index to the 1871 returns of that province. The index is available in 30 published volumes and can be purchased from that society. An online database of the index can be accessed on our Web site (www.archives.ca) under ArchiviaNet.

Census records in the custody of the National Archives of Canada are listed in our two checklists, *Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1666-1891* (SA2-95/1987; $22.50) and *Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1901* (SA2-95/1-1901; $23.95). These catalogues list alphabetically the names of villages, towns, townships and counties within each province, giving the microfilm reels on which the returns appear.

Copies of our checklists may be purchased from The Friends of the National Archives of Canada. For more information call (613) 992-9367 or 1-866-578-7777 or e-mail (friends-amis@archives.ca).

Unless you are engaged in extensive research in many localities, it is not necessary to purchase these catalogues. Many libraries hold copies in their reference sections, or you can contact our office and we will provide you with microfilm reel numbers for specific places.

Once you have a reel number, you can borrow that microfilm from the National Archives through the interinstitutional loan arrangement. Microfilm copies of our census records are also available for consultation at many provincial archives and larger public libraries. Those institutions are authorized to make copies from our census records on behalf of their patrons.

The following list identifies the main series of our census holdings and some of the scattered earlier returns.

N — nominal returns listing all members of households
HF — returns listing heads of families only

Newfoundland	
1691, 1693	N
1704	HF
1921, 1935, 1945	N
Plaisance only:	
1671, 1673	N
1698, 1706, 1711	HF
Acadia	
1671-1753	N and HF
Nova Scotia	
1770-1838	HF
1851, 1861	HF
1871, 1881, 1891, 1901	N
Prince Edward Island	
1841, 1861	HF
1881, 1891, 1901	N
New Brunswick	
1851, 1861, 1871	N
1881, 1891, 1901	N
Quebec	
1666-1681	N
1825, 1831, 1842	HF
1851, 1861, 1871	N
1881, 1891, 1901	N

Ontario	
1842, 1848, 1850	HF
1851, 1861, 1871	N
1881, 1891, 1901	N
Manitoba	
1870	N
1881, 1891, 1901	N
Red River only:	
1831-1849	HF
Saskatchewan	
1881, 1891, 1901	N
Alberta	
1881, 1891, 1901	N
British Columbia	
1881, 1891, 1901	N
Victoria City, 1891	HF
Yukon Territory	
1901	N

N.B.

1. Returns prior to 1851 are rarely complete for any geographical area. Portions of the 1851 census have not survived.
2. Alberta, Saskatchewan and northern British Columbia were enumerated as territories.
3. In 1891, institutions were enumerated separately in one block and appear on reel T-6427.
4. In 1901, most of the Indian agencies were enumerated separately and appear on reels T-6554 and T-6555.
5. Census returns after 1901 (including Newfoundland after 1949) are closed under the Statistics Act.

Voters Lists

Records of the Chief Electoral Officer for Canada (RG 113) include lists of voters prepared during the federal election years since 1935. These are available on microfilm, with the lists arranged by electoral district. To determine the electoral district for a particular place, consult the annual Canadian almanacs available at most public libraries.

While voters lists give only the name and address of an individual, they are useful for confirming that a person was alive and resident in a certain place at the time in question. The names of students and many temporary residents were often omitted.

Prior to 1935, local or municipal voters lists were used for federal elections.

Some provincial archives hold poll books or printed voters lists for federal and provincial elections for the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The usefulness of the earlier lists is limited by the small proportion of the population then qualified to vote.

RECORDS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Records of births, marriages and deaths constitute a key source of genealogical information. The civil registration of vital statistics did not become the general practice in Canada until it was undertaken as a provincial responsibility late in the nineteenth century. The only likely source for such information before that time is local church records, and to locate these, the denomination and the parish or mission district must be known.

Provincial Offices

The following provincial and territorial offices are in charge of civil registration and have records covering the periods indicated. Contact the appropriate office to obtain application forms and information about access and fees. Prepayment is generally required.

Researchers should remember that not all births, marriages and deaths were registered, especially in the early years of civil registration. Problems in locating records can also occur due to spelling variations of names and minor errors in dates.

Newfoundland—Civil registration began in 1891. The records are in the custody of the Government Service Centre, Vital Statistics, 5 Mews Place, Box 8700, St. John's, NF, A1B 4J6. For earlier years, the only source is church records, which are numerous for the period 1860-1891, though some date from the 1820s. Inquiries concerning records prior to 1892 should be addressed to the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Nova Scotia—Records of births and deaths from October 1, 1908, and of marriages from 1907 to 1918 (depending on the county), are held by Vital Statistics, Department of Business and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 157, Halifax, NS, B3J 2M9. Inquiries concerning earlier records should be addressed to the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management.

Prince Edward Island—Civil registration began in 1906, but there are some marriage records (civil) and baptismal records (church) dating from 1886. These are in the custody of Vital Statistics, Health and Community Services Agency, P.O. Box 3000, Charlottetown, PE, C0A 1R0. Baptismal records prior to 1886, death records prior to 1906 and some marriage records for the period 1830-1923 have been transferred to the Public Archives and Records Office.

New Brunswick—The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick holds birth records from 1886 to 1905, marriage and death records from 1888 to 1950, and some incomplete civil and church records prior to 1888. Some indexes are available online on the PANB Web site (www.gnb.ca/archives).

Birth records after 1905, and marriage and death records after 1950 are still in the custody of the Vital Statistics Office, Health and Community Services, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1.

Quebec—Civil registers have been in existence in the Province of Quebec since the early seventeenth century. Two copies of these registers were required to be kept, one in the parish and the other in the office of the district protonotary. Pre-1900 records are in the custody of the nine regional offices of the Archives nationales du Québec (ANQ).

As the ANQ requires exact dates before certificates can be issued, you might wish to hire a researcher through the Quebec Family History Society or the Société de généalogie de Québec.

Records dating from 1900 are in the custody of the following office:

Ministère de la Justice
Direction de l'état civil
Service à la clientèle
205, rue Montmagny
Québec QC G1N 4T2.

Ontario—In Ontario, civil registration dates from July 1, 1869. Records of births, 1869-1903, marriages, 1869-1918, and deaths, 1869-1928, are held by the Archives of Ontario. Incomplete marriage records from the 1830s to 1869 are also available. Due to the large demand, staff at that office are unable to undertake genealogical searches in their vital records. However, microfilm copies of the nominal indexes and the original registrations, and also the incomplete 1830s to 1869 marriage records, are available through interinstitutional loan from the Archives of Ontario and through your local LDS (Mormon) Family History Centre. Should you prefer to hire someone to search the records on your behalf, the Archives of Ontario can provide a list of local researchers.

For births after 1903, marriages after 1918 and deaths after 1928, inquiries should be addressed to the Registrar General, P.O. Box 4600, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6L8.

People who require a copy of their own birth or marriage record, regardless of the date, should apply to the Registrar General.

Manitoba—Complete records from 1882, together with some incomplete church records prior to that date (searched when the denomination is known) are available from Vital Statistics, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, 254 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 0B6.

Saskatchewan—The Vital Statistics Unit, Department of Health, 1942 Hamilton Street, Regina, SK, S4P 3V7, holds records dating from 1895. Few records exist prior to that year.

Alberta—Records from 1898 to 1905 are in the custody of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. That office also holds incomplete indexes and registers for the period 1898 to 1983. For certificates from 1906 on, provincial residents should apply to their local Registry Agent. Out-of-province requests should be forwarded directly to Alberta Registries, Vital Statistics, Box 2023, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3W7.

British Columbia—Records date from 1872, although those for the early years are not complete. There are also some baptismal records as early as 1849. Requests should be directed to the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency, P.O. Box 9657, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9P3.

Microfilm copies of original birth registration documents (1872-1899), marriage registration documents (1872-1924) and death registration documents (1872-1979) are available for consultation on site at the British Columbia Archives and through LDS (Mormon) Family History Centres. Nominal indexes to the above vital records are available online (www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca). Please note that all inquiries and requests for copies should be addressed to the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.

Yukon Territory—Incomplete records date from 1898. By the 1940s, records are more complete; however, some events may not have been registered. Requests should be directed to Vital Statistics, Government of the Yukon Territory, P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6.

Northwest Territories—Incomplete records date from 1925. Requests should be addressed to the Registrar General of Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Social Services, P.O. Bag # 9, Inuvik, NT, X0E 0T0.

Adoption Records

Adoptions fall within the jurisdiction of provincial authorities. Access to the records is restricted to protect the confidentiality of information contained therein. Persons attempting to trace a biological parent or an adoptee would be best advised to work through provincial and private associations that specialize in such searches, for example Parent Finders (www.parentfinders.org) and Retrouvailles (www.mouvement-retrouvailles.qc.ca).

As a general rule, prior to the early to mid-1900s, when provincial authorities became involved in adoptions, children were placed with family, friends or neighbours without documentation by government authorities.

Church Records—Parish Registers

Church records can be a very valuable source for linking generations. You may expect to find details such as dates of birth, baptism, marriage and burial, as well as names of parents and godparents. Records may be held by individual churches, church archives, provincial or local archives and museums, etc. The Family History Library has microfilmed numerous church records of various denominations in Canada and many other countries. The National Archives of Canada holds some original parish registers, as well as transcript and microfilm copies of others. This collection comprises only a small fraction of the church records of the country and is by no means comprehensive for any region. Our *Checklist of Parish Registers 1986* lists all the registers in our custody that are available on microfilm, showing the dates covered and the reel numbers.

Visitors to the National Archives have access to many published marriage indexes that are not available for loan along with our microfiche copy of the *Loiselle Index of Quebec Marriages*, published by the Archives nationales du Québec.

Marriage Bonds

Marriage bonds were prepared only in cases of marriage by licence. They offer little genealogical information beyond the names of the betrothed, their place of residence and the date of the bond. The National Archives of Canada holds marriage bonds for Lower Canada (Quebec), 1818-1841, with a few scattered items for 1779, 1842 and 1860 (RG 4 B 28), and for Upper Canada (Ontario), 1803-1845 (RG 5 B 9). The nominal indexes and the bonds are available on microfilm.

Cemetery Recordings

When the place of burial is known, a headstone might be found with an inscription offering personal data. Genealogical societies have been transcribing inscriptions, arranging them alphabetically or indexing them, and publishing the reports. Copies are often deposited in appropriate provincial or local archives. The religious denomination is necessary for identification of some cemeteries.

Databases for two provinces are available on the Internet as follows: Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid (www.islandnet.com/ocfa/homepage.html) and British Columbia Cemetery Finding Aid (www.islandnet.com/bccfa/).

Acadian Sources

Gaudet's Notes, the bulk of which are in our possession, constitute the main source for purely Acadian genealogy (MG 30 C 20). They were compiled by Placide Gaudet from various sources, not all of which are held by the National Archives. It should be stressed that these notes, although a most helpful source, must not be considered in any way as official records. The information given generally consists of birth, marriage and death dates together with the name of the relevant parish. The *Notes* are arranged in approximate alphabetical order and are available on microfilm reels C-2238 to C-2241. Additional notes have also been microfilmed.

The most extensive collection of Acadian records is held by Le Centre d'études acadiennes, University of Moncton, Moncton, NB, E1A 3E9 (http://www.umoncton.ca/etudeacadiennes/centre/cea.html).

Unidentified boy and girl, carte-de-visite, Toronto, Ontario, [taken 1860s]. (PA-127016)

LAND RECORDS

The British North America Act of 1867 established Crown Lands as a provincial responsibility. Only land petitions for Upper and Lower Canada were retained by the federal government. With the acquisition of Rupert's Land in 1869, Western lands came under federal control. In 1930, responsibility for Crown Lands was transferred to the provincial governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The federal government retained a copy of the original patents issued for these lands. A database of those Dominion Land Grants can be searched on our Web site (www.archives.ca) under ArchiviaNet.

Land Petitions

In order to obtain Crown land, early settlers were required to submit petitions to the governor stating their claims to land grants. Many, but not all, were Loyalists, children of Loyalists, or other military claimants. Land petitions are often a helpful genealogical source, since they frequently give information on the petitioner's family, antecedents and country of origin; military service; and sometimes striking accounts of experiences during the American Revolutionary War or the War of 1812. These documents rarely name the specific town or village from whence an immigrant came. The petition rarely indicates where the land was granted, as the location was designated at a later stage in the land granting process. Records created by the surveyor general held by the relevant provincial archives will identify the location of the grant.

The National Archives of Canada holds land petitions for Quebec and Lower Canada, 1764-1841 (RG 1 L 3L), and for Upper Canada and the United Province of Canada, 1791-1867 (RG 1 L 3). Both series and their

indexes are available on microfilm. If, after consulting the index, you wish to examine any of the actual petitions, a shelf-list appears at the start of each index reel to convert your references to microfilm. Borrowing institutions equipped with a reader-printer are authorized to make copies of portions of the indexes and relevant petitions for their patrons.

Land petitions for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are in the custody of the provincial archives.

Patents, Deeds and Other Land Records

Most records of land grants offer less information than petitions. The patent or deed, or registration of it, will give only a description of the location, acreage, name of grantee and date of confirmation of title. The provincial governments are responsible for retaining a copy or registry of the original title deed recording the initial transfer of ownership of Crown Land.

Registration of subsequent transfers of title is generally the responsibility of land registry offices in the district or county in which the land is located. These offices can be identified by consulting published Canadian almanacs. In some regions, the boundaries of districts may have altered with the expansion of settlement, with new districts and offices being established over the years.

The major provincial land record offices are listed below. Most charge a fee for conducting a search and providing copies of documents.

Newfoundland—The Crown Lands Division, Department of Government Services and Land, Howley Building, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NF, A1B 4J6, holds registers of initial grants of Crown lands. The records of subsequent transactions are with the Registry of Deeds, Confederation Building, St. John's, NF, A1B 4J6. No petitions have been located within the holdings of the provincial archives.

Nova Scotia—Copies of all original land grants are held by the Crown Lands Records Centre, Department of Natural Resources, P.O Box 2345, Halifax, NS, B3J 3C8. The Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management holds microfilm copies of land grants and petitions for grants, all of which are indexed. Records of subsequent transactions are held by the district Registry of Deeds.

Prince Edward Island—The Public Archives and Records Office holds microfilm copies of all land title registrations prior to 1900. Records after that date are held by the Registrar of Deeds, Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE, C1A 7N8. As the land was originally held by a small number of proprietors, few petitions were ever submitted.

New Brunswick—The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick holds petitions covering the years from 1783 to 1966, and land grants from 1784 to 1986. The grants contain no biographical information. A land grant database is now available online (http://degaulle.hil.unb.ca/library/data/panb/panbweb.html).

Records of subsequent transactions are in the custody of the local registry offices. Although the Provincial Archives holds microfilm copies, they are not available for loan; requests for photocopies should be directed to the registry office in the appropriate county.

Quebec—A list of Crown grants, 1763-1890, arranged by townships within counties and indexed by grantees, was published in 1891 by order of the National Assembly. The records are preserved in the Service de l'enregistrement des documents de l'État, 1200, route de l'Église, Sainte-Foy, QC, G1V 4M1. Records of subsequent transactions are the responsibility of the Ministère de la Justice, operating through the Bureaux d'enregistrement of the various judicial districts.

Ontario—Correspondence relating to grants, leases, disputed titles and other questions ("Township Papers") is in the custody of the Archives of Ontario. The arrangement of these papers is by lot and concession number within each township; their alphabetical index, by grantee or township, is available through interinstitutional loan. Copies of land grants may be obtained from the Archives of Ontario; however, the grants contain little if any more information than may be gleaned from the index.

Copies of land titles can be obtained from the Official Documents Office, Ministry of Government Services, 3rd Floor, Hearst Block, Queen's Park, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, ON, M7A 1N3. It should be remembered that land title deeds were not necessarily issued to every grantee. Subsequent transactions are recorded in the regional Land Registry Offices.

Manitoba—Homestead registers, files, plans and fiats are in the custody of the Provincial Archives. A computer-generated list of all homesteaders, by name and land description, is available on microfiche. Subsequent transfers of title are recorded in the district Land Titles Offices.

Saskatchewan—The federal Department of the Interior homestead files prior to 1930, with an alphabetical index of homestead entrants, are in the custody of the Saskatchewan Archives, Saskatoon Office. Microfilm copies are available at the Regina Office.

The Saskatoon Office also holds provincial Department of Agriculture grant and homestead files after 1930. Copies of the patents for grants, and records of subsequent transactions, are located in the eight district Land Titles Offices.

Alberta—Homestead records are deposited with the Provincial Archives. Subsequent transactions are recorded with the North Alberta Land Registration District (10365-97 Street), P.O. Box 2380, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2T3, or the South Alberta Land Registration District (J.J. Bowlen Building, 620-7 Avenue SW), P.O. Box 7575, Station M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2R4.

British Columbia—The British Columbia Archives holds applications for homesteads and applications to pre-empt or purchase Crown lands. In some cases, use of these records requires a legal description of the property. The Crown grants and some related records are held by the Surveyor General Branch, Crown Land Registry Services, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, 3400 Davidson Ave., Victoria, BC, V8Z 3P8. Copies of Crown grants and records of subsequent transactions can be obtained from the eight district Land Registry Offices.

Yukon Territory—Land records, dating from 1899, are held by the Registrar of Land Titles, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6.

Northwest Territories—Land grants and transfers of titles are held by the Land Titles Office, Department of Justice, Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9.

Assessment Rolls

Assessment rolls may be located when the place of residence is known. Municipal offices prepare and keep assessment rolls for the residents within their jurisdiction in accordance with provincial legislation. The information contained in the rolls varies from one province to another. Besides name of owner or tenant of the property, the rolls may include details such as religious denomination,

occupation, number of people in the household and nature and value of the buildings. Assessment rolls are considered permanent records, but the extent to which they have been preserved varies widely. Most of these records are publicly accessible, except for those restricted because of conservation concerns or protected under the *Privacy Act*.

Claims for Losses—Upper Canada (Ontario)

The War of 1812 Claims for Losses (RG 19) cover requests for compensation for losses sustained as a result of the war, whether caused by invading American forces or the British Army and its Indian allies. Much information about lands and property holdings will be found. The complete series of claims is available on microfilm. A nominal card index appears on microfilm reel C-15720.

Métis Land Claims

A complex series of legislation, beginning with the *Manitoba Act* of 1870, provided for the settlement of claims arising from Aboriginal rights to land in Western Canada. The Métis applications for scrip include considerable information about the claimants, such as dates and places of birth, names of parents, children and spouses, etc. The applications are arranged alphabetically within several series of our Department of the Interior records (RG 15). They have been microfilmed and are available for consultation through the interinstitutional loan arrangement. You can search for specific names in that series by using our database of federal government records available on our Web site (www.archives.ca) under ArchiviaNet.

WILLS AND ESTATE RECORDS

Estate records include wills and testaments, inventories of property, letters of administration, letters of probate, trusteeships and guardianships, bonds and depositions, and a variety of correspondence. Wills are of interest to the genealogist because they usually mention family members.

The will or the letter of administration for an estate sometimes remains with the court in which the estate was probated. Use of the terms "probate" and "surrogate court" varies from one province to another, as does the arrangement of judicial districts. Some provincial authorities charge search fees and require prepayment of the fees.

Newfoundland—Records of probated estates are held by the Registry Office of the Supreme Court, Court House, Duckworth Street, St. John's, NF, A1C 5V5. Copies of documents must be requested from that office. Although the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador holds microfilm copies, they are available for consultation only.

Nova Scotia—The Registrar of Probate in each county is responsible for all records of the settlement of estates. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia holds microfilm copies of many of these records.

Prince Edward Island—Probate Court records, 1807-1920, are in the custody of the Public Archives and Records Office. Records after 1920 are held at the Provincial Court House.

New Brunswick—The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick holds both probate files, with the will or letter of administration and supporting documentation, and probate books (registers), which are indexed. Microfilm copies are available through interlibrary loan from that office.

Quebec—Wills are customarily passed before notaries, who are required by law to retain a copy. On retirement or death of the notary, or at the latest, no more than 50 years after his death, his files (or greffe) are sent to the Court House of the Judicial District in which he had his practice. Holograph wills are also deposited in the Court House. Copies of wills can be obtained from the Judicial Archives of the district, from the notary who drew it up, or from his successor. The notarial files may contain other documents related to the settlement of an estate.

The database PARCHEMIN, created by Archiv-Histo, indexes all notarial records of Quebec during the French Régime (1635-1765). It is accessible on CD-ROM through the Archives nationales du Québec at Montreal and Sainte-Foy, and through some libraries and genealogical societies. A sample is available on the Internet (www.cdriq.org/).

Ontario—The Archives of Ontario holds the indexes, registers and estate files of the Provincial Court of Probate, 1791-1859, and the County/District Surrogate Courts, 1793-1951. Most of these records up to 1930 are available on microfilm. The Archives also holds the Indexes and Application to Probate Clerk Books, 1858-1978, allowing researchers to locate Surrogate Court files by surname, including those not yet transferred from the local courthouses.

Manitoba—Estate files are transferred to the Provincial Archives of Manitoba after 20 years from rural courts and after 60 years from the Winnipeg court. Records that have not been transferred to the Provincial Archives are available at the appropriate court office.

Saskatchewan—Inquiries should be addressed to the Surrogate Clerk, Regina Court House, 2425 Victoria Avenue, Regina, SK, S4P 3V7.

Alberta—Inquiries should be addressed to the Succession Duty Department, Public Trustee's Office, 10365-97 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3Z8.

British Columbia — Wills and probate files are in the custody of the British Columbia Archives.

Yukon Territory—Some estate records form part of the Public Administrator's files, deposited in the Yukon Archives in Whitehorse.

Northwest Territories—Probate records are in the custody of the Supreme Court, Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9. Some records of the administration of intestate estates are held by the Public Trustee, Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9.

MILITARY AND NAVAL RECORDS

Military records are extensive and complex. Background information about various military campaigns can be found in encyclopedias and books on military history. An overview of the holdings of the National Archives follows.

French Regime

In the French North American colonies, defence had rested largely with the parish militias, for which no large body of records is known to survive. In 1665, the Carignan-Salières Regiment was sent to New France. A nominal roll of 400 names was found and published in Jack Verney's *The Good Regiment: the Carignan-Salières Regiment in Canada 1665-1668* (1991). Nominal rolls and officers' personnel files for the French regular army in North America are scattered throughout our holdings of records relating to the French Regime.

British Records

Detailed service records of British military and naval personnel are not generally available in Canada, but may be located amongst the records of the War Office and Admiralty at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU, England. The services of a paid professional researcher are usually required. Note that it is essential to know the regiment in which your ancestor served before a search can be undertaken.

The National Archives of Canada has acquired microfilm copies of some of the War Office series relating to British regiments with long service in North America. Records of soldiers discharged to pension can be found in War Office series 97 and 120. Three volumes of the War Office 120 series relating to soldiers who served in Canada have been indexed in Norman K. Crowder's *British Army Pensioners Abroad, 1772-1899* (1995). Various registers for enlisted men and officers appear in the War Office 25 series.

Basic information about British Army officers can be found in the printed *Army Lists*, available in larger reference libraries. These date from 1754 and are indexed after 1766. Beginning in 1839, *Hart's Army Lists*, which include details of officers' war services, were also published. Similar publications for the Royal Navy are the Sea Officers, 1717-1815, and Navy Lists, dating from 1814.

The British Military and Naval Records "C" Series (RG 8 I) covers the period from the American Revolution to approximately 1867. It contains administrative records, Loyalist muster rolls, references to the War of 1812, British pensioners, the Rebellions of 1837-1838, and the Provincial Marine, as well as a wide variety of other subjects relating to the British Army and Canadian militia. A large portion of the collection has been microfilmed and indexed by name and subject.

Canadian Militia

Detailed personnel files for the Canadian militia were not kept until the twentieth century. Earlier records consist mainly of muster rolls and pay lists, which rarely contain any personal information. Place of residence might assist in locating possible records, as most units were organized on a county basis.

For officers, published *Militia Lists* date from the 1850s, although the earlier years are incomplete and unindexed. Several series of officers' registers appear within our Department of Militia and Defence records (RG 9). These registers contain more details than the published lists, but the regiment must be known before a search can be undertaken.

A variety of records exist for the major conflicts, with the most comprehensive series listed below. Microfilmed records may be borrowed through the interinstitutional loan arrangement. Our staff can advise you of relevant volumes and reel numbers. Records that are not available on microfilm must be consulted on the premises, either in person or by hiring a researcher. For indexed records, our Genealogy Unit accepts written requests for a search and copies.

War of 1812

Nominal Rolls and Pay Lists, Upper Canada
(RG 9 I B 7; on microfilm)
Nominal Rolls and Pay Lists, Lower Canada
(RG 9 I A 7; on microfilm)
Upper Canada, Land Grants, Certificates of Service, Pension Records, etc.
(RG 9 I B 4; indexed; not on microfilm)
Lower Canada, Pensions and Land Grants
(RG 9 I A 4; not on microfilm)

Rebellions of Upper and Lower Canada, 1837-1838

Muster Rolls
(MG 13, War Office 13; on microfilm)

Fenian Raids, 1866 and 1870

Canada General Service Medal Registers
(RG 9 II A 5; indexed; on microfilm)
Fenian Raids Bounty Claims, 1912
(RG 9 II A 4; indexed; not on microfilm)
Volunteer Militia Pay Lists
(RG 9 II F 6; ongoing microfilming in progress)

Red River Rebellion, 1870

Canada General Service Medal Registers
(RG 9 II A 5; indexed; on microfilm)
Register of Service
(RG 9 II B 4, vol. 16, microfilm reel T-6955)

North West Rebellion, 1885

North West Canada Medal Register
(RG 9 II A 5, vols. 11 and 12, microfilm reel C-1863)
Special Service Pay Lists
(RG 9 II F 7; not on microfilm)

South African War, 1899-1902

Queen's South African Medal Register
(RG 9 II A 5; indexed; on microfilm)
South African War Service Files
(RG 38; indexed; on microfilm)
Special Service Pay Lists
(RG 9 II F 7; not on microfilm)
Land Grant Applications
(RG 38; indexed; not on microfilm)

First World War Records

The National Archives of Canada holds personnel service files for the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1918 (RG 150). In accordance with the *Privacy Act*, information contained in these records may be disclosed for research or statistical purposes. Requests should be directed to the Personnel Records Unit, Researcher Services Division, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N3.

Researchers with Internet access can consult the online nominal index available on our Web site (www.archives.ca).

Post-First World War Records

Formal Access

The *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act* govern formal access to the military personnel files of regular force personnel serving after the First World War, as well as those on active service during the Second World War and the Korean Conflict. Persons seeking a complete copy of their own service records may wish to apply under the *Privacy Act*. Those wishing to obtain a complete copy of a veteran's file may wish to apply under the *Access to Information Act*. The veteran must have been deceased for more than 20 years, and proof of death must be provided unless he or she died in service. Such formal requests should be sent to the Personnel Records Section, Access to Information and Privacy Division, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N3. Fee: $5. Photocopy charges may be assessed.

Informal Access

If an individual wishes to receive copies of specific documentation, rather than a complete file, informal access to these records may be obtained by sending a written request to the Personnel Records Unit, Researcher Services Division, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N3. Although no fee is charged for this service, photocopy charges may be assessed.

In the case of a living veteran, his or her signed consent is required for the release of personal information. If the veteran has been deceased fewer than 20 years, limited information may be released directly to a member of his or her immediate family in reply to a written request, if accompanied by proof of death and relationship. There are no restrictions placed on information relating to individuals who have been deceased for more than 20 years; however, proof of death is still required.

LOYALIST SOURCES

The term "United Empire Loyalists" is used to refer to American colonists who had borne arms or otherwise served the British cause during the American Revolution (1775-1783). The National Archives of Canada holds many records for the Loyalist period. The major sources listed below are all indexed and available on microfilm.

British Military and Naval Records (RG 8 I)

Muster rolls.

Ward Chipman Papers (MG 23 D 1)

Muster rolls and nominal rolls of disbanded soldiers and Loyalist settlers, in particular for the Maritimes.

British Headquarters Papers (MG 23 B 1)

Various documents, including rolls of refugees evacuated from New York in 1783, temporary assistance, pensions, etc.

Sir Frederick Haldimand Papers (MG 21)

Muster rolls and provision lists for Loyalists and dependents (see microfilm reel C-1475 for transcripts and index).

Audit Office 12 and 13 (MG 14)

Loyalists' claims for compensation for losses sustained and for services rendered to the British cause (consult microfilm reel C-9821 for indexes).

Ontario is the sole province for which a *Loyalist List* was compiled. Begun in 1796, the *List* was maintained in two contemporary copies by staff of the Crown Lands Office and the Executive Council, and had certain discrepancies between them. The original Council Office "U E List" and a transcript of the Crown Lands List appear on our microfilm reel C-2222. The version printed in the "Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists" in 1885, from the original in the custody of the Department of Crown Lands, appears on our microfilm reel C-1476.

Another valuable source for Loyalists are land petitions, which are described in this booklet under "Land Records."

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

In order to determine if one of your ancestors was of Native origin, you should first use standard genealogical sources to identify them by name, dates of birth, marriage and death, and place of residence. Census returns are particularly helpful, as they indicate each individual's ethnic origin. Those records are described in this booklet under "Census Records."

Information relating to the status Indian population is found in Record Group 10 (RG 10). It contains documents accumulated by the old British Indian Department, some dating back to the mid-eighteenth century, and of the various agencies responsible for Indian Affairs since Confederation.

RG 10 records of interest to genealogists include annuity and interest distribution pay lists, census and school returns, and membership registers and lists. Most files containing personal information are arranged by band, agency or district. Those details must be known in order to undertake a meaningful search. The various series in RG 10 are not always comprehensive and are not indexed. Also note that not all Aboriginal people belonged to bands, therefore, their names will not appear in the RG 10 records, since they rarely contain information relating to the non-status Indian population.

The records in RG 10 are described in our General Inventory database, available on our Web site (www.archives.ca) under ArchiviaNet. On the search screen for the General Inventory, select Fonds/Collections and Government Records and enter the title: Indian and Inuit Affairs Program sous-fonds. File titles for portions of the RG 10 series can be searched in our database of federal government records by selecting RG 10 and using various keywords, such as the name of a band.

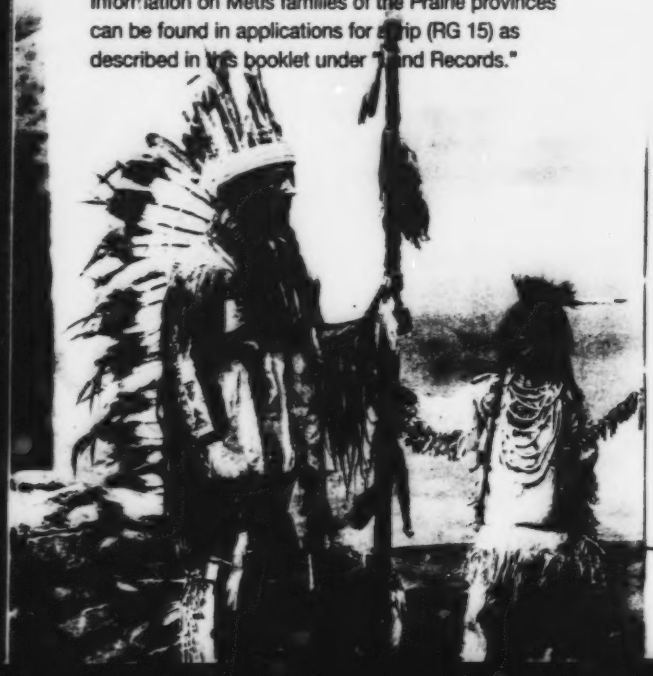
Personnel of the 13th Royal Regiment of Hamilton placed on active service and sent to Prescott, Ont., to guard the frontier during the closing months of the American Civil War, May 1865. (PA- 088325)

For further information about researching Native ancestry, consult our thematic guide for Aboriginal Peoples on ArchiviaNet. Also, the Ontario Genealogical Society has published an excellent guide called *Records of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs at the National Archives of Canada: A Source for Genealogical Research* by Bill Russell.

For questions concerning status, please contact Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Before doing so, however, we suggest you read the section on "Most Often Asked Questions" on their Web site (www.inac.gc.ca).

Documentation relating to the Inuit can be found in the records of the Northern Affairs Program (RG 85). Of particular interest are the *Eskimo Record Books*, 1947-1959, which include information such as names, dates and places of birth, religion, language, etc. Access restrictions apply.

Information on Métis families of the Prairie provinces can be found in applications for scrip (RG 15) as described in this booklet under "Land Records."



IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Extensive searches in Canada and Great Britain have failed to locate comprehensive nominal lists of immigrants arriving in Canada prior to 1865. A number of scattered lists have been found, generally for subsidized emigration schemes from Great Britain. Some of these, 1817-1831, are found in the Colonial Office 384 series (MG 11) and are indexed on microfilm reel C-4252.

A nominal "Miscellaneous" index has been compiled by our staff for other lists relating to immigrants to Ontario and Quebec that fall within the period of approximately 1800 to 1848. The information found in pre-1865 lists varies considerably. Some give only names, while others indicate age, occupation, former place of residence and destination. A database version of that card index is available on the Internet (www.inGeneas.com).

For the French Regime, passenger lists are relatively uncommon. The two lists that have survived for the 1600s have been published: *La grande recrue de 1653* (Roland-J. Auger) and *Les passagers du Saint-André, la recrue de 1659* (P. Archange Godbout). The National Archives has acquired microfilm copies of lists of passengers leaving France for the colonies, including a few arrivals in Quebec and Acadia between 1717 and 1778. However, none of these are indexed. Employment contracts (engagements) are another source offering information on some early immigrants (MG 6 A 2(c)).

Mr. Hayter Reed and child in costume for a historical ball, Ottawa, Ontario, Feb. 1896. William James Topley/National Archives of Canada (PA-139841)

Passenger Lists, 1865-1935

The National Archives holds microfilm copies of passenger lists for ships arriving at the following Canadian ports, and for some American ports such as Boston, Baltimore, New York, Portland, Philadelphia and Rhode Island. The U.S. lists identify the names of only those passengers who stated their intention of proceeding directly to Canada.

Quebec, QC	1865-1935
Halifax, NS	1881-1935
North Sydney, NS	1906-1935
Saint John, NB	1900-1935
Vancouver, BC	1905-1935
Victoria, BC	1905-1935
(including some small Pacific Coast ports)	
via U.S. ports	1905-1931
(depending on the port)	

Passenger lists constitute the official record of immigration in that period. They contain information such as name, age, occupation and intended destination of passengers. With the exception of some individual Form 30A records for the years 1919 to 1924, the lists are arranged by port and date of arrival. In order to undertake a meaningful search, it is necessary to know the exact month, year and port of arrival. The name of the ship and the last port of sailing are also helpful clues. Keep in mind that passengers from mainland Europe often boarded transatlantic ships at ports in Great Britain.

Indexes exist for the following ports and years only:

Quebec: 1865-1869 (25 reels)
Halifax: January 1881-February 1882 (reel C-15712)

All ports: 1925-1935 (database available on our Web site—www.archives.ca—under ArchiviaNet).

Microfilm copies of our passenger lists are available for consultation at some of the provincial archives and larger public libraries as well as through the interinstitutional loan arrangement.

Home Children

Between 1869 and the early 1930s, over 100,000 children were sent to Canada from Great Britain during the child emigration movement. Members of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa are locating and indexing the names of these Home Children found in our passenger lists. The database can be searched on our Web site (www.archives.ca) under ArchiviaNet.

Border Entry Records, 1908-1935

The National Archives also holds lists of immigrants arriving across the Canada/U.S. border and at certain local lake and sea ports, from April 1908 to December 1935. These border entry records contain genealogical information such as age, country of birth, occupation, place of residence in the U.S. and destination. The lists from 1908 to 1918 are arranged by port and date of arrival; they are not indexed. It is necessary to know the port and month of arrival; otherwise you must search the lists for the appropriate region, port by port and month by month. From 1918 to 1924, the records consist of individual Form 30 documents, which are arranged in quasi-alphabetical order. The 1925 to 1935 lists are arranged by date and port of arrival; however, a series of old indexes exists, which staff in the Genealogy Unit can consult on behalf of researchers.

Microfilm copies of our border entry records are available for consultation at some of the provincial archives and larger public libraries as well as through the interinstitutional loan arrangement.

Arrivals after 1935

Records of immigrants arriving at Canadian land and sea ports from January 1936 onwards remain in the custody of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Requests for copies of landing records should be mailed to the following office:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Public Rights Administration
365 Laurier Avenue West
15th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 1L1

Please note that the following conditions apply:

- Applications for copies of documents must be submitted on an "Access to Information Request Form" by a Canadian citizen or an individual present in Canada.
- Fee: $5, payable to the Receiver General for Canada.
- The request must be accompanied by a signed consent from the person concerned or proof that he/she has been deceased 20 years. Proof of death can be a copy of a death record, a newspaper obituary or a photograph of the gravestone showing name and death date.
- The request should include the following information: full name at time of entry into Canada, date and place of birth, year of entry.

If you require copies of your own immigration records, please contact your nearest Canada Immigration Centre or Canadian Consular Office.

Immigrants from China

The National Archives holds nominal registers of Chinese immigrants, 1885-1949 (RG 76). The entries are arranged numerically by serial number and declaration number, in approximate chronological order. The registers include information such as age, place of birth, occupation, date and port of arrival in Canada, head tax paid, etc. This series is available on microfilm reel numbers C-9510 to C-9513 and T-3484 to T-3486.

Once an immigrant's name has been located in the registers, the details listed can assist you in accessing other possible records in our custody, such as case files.

Russian Consular Records

The National Archives holds the LI-RA-MA Collection (MG 30 E 406) of documents created by the Imperial Russian Consular offices in Canada during the period 1898 to 1922. The Passport/Identity Papers series consists of about 11,400 files on Russian and East European immigrants (Jews, Ukrainians, Poles, Finns, etc.) who settled in Canada in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The files include documents such as passport applications and background questionnaires. Many of the records are written in Russian Cyrillic, for which the National Archives cannot provide a translation service. Both the index and the files are available on microfilm.

RECORDS OF CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION

The *Canadian Citizenship Act* came into effect on January 1, 1947. From 1763 to that date, persons born in the provinces and colonies of British North America were all British subjects. Being of equal status, immigrants from Great Britain and the Commonwealth were not required to be naturalized.

Naturalization appears not to have been a matter for concern prior to the early nineteenth century. Immigrants swore an oath of allegiance when obtaining a grant of Crown land, but no other formal process existed. An act of 1828 required the keeping of a naturalization register in each county of Upper Canada (Ontario). Since the majority of immigrants were British subjects and exempt from the oath, there were many years in which few entries were made in the registers. The surviving registers for 1828-1850 for Upper Canada (RG 5 B 47) are in the custody of the National Archives of Canada and available on microfilm reels C-15692 and C-15693. A nominal card index is available in the National Archives' reference room, or you can consult Donald A. McKenzie's published version *Upper Canada Naturalization Records 1828-1850* (O.G.S., 1991).

Records from 1854 to the Present

Citizenship and Immigration Canada holds records of naturalization and citizenship from 1854. The originals of records dated between 1854 and 1917 have been destroyed. However, a nominal card index has survived, which provides information compiled at the time of naturalization, such as present and former place of residence, former nationality, occupation, date of certification, name and location of the responsible court. The index rarely contains any other genealogical information.

Records created after 1917 are more detailed, indicating the surname, given name, date and place of birth, entry into Canada, and in some cases, the names of spouses and children.

Requests for copies of naturalization/citizenship records from 1854 to the present should be mailed to the following office:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Public Rights Administration
365 Laurier Avenue West
15th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 1L1

Please note that the following conditions apply:

- Each application for copies must be submitted on an "Access to Information Request Form" by a Canadian citizen or an individual present in Canada.
- Fee: $5, payable to the Receiver General for Canada.
- The request must be accompanied by a signed consent from the person concerned or proof that he/she has been deceased 20 years. Proof of death can be a copy of a death record, a newspaper obituary or a photograph of the gravestone showing name and death date.
- The request should include the following information: full name, date and place of birth, and if possible, the number of the Canadian citizenship or naturalization certificate.

To obtain copies of your own naturalization records, please contact the following office for information about fees and application forms:

Registrar of Canadian Citizenship
P.O. Box 7000
Sydney NS B1P 6V6

ADDRESSES OF PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ARCHIVES

Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador
Colonial Building, Military Road
St. John's NF A1C 2C9
Phone (709) 729-3065
www.gov.nf.ca/panl

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management
6016 University Avenue
Halifax NS B3H 1W4
Phone (902) 424-6060
www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/

Public Archives and Records Office (Prince Edward Island)
P.O. Box 1000
Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4
Phone (902) 368-4290
www2.gov.pe.ca/educ/archives/archives_index.asp

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton NB E3B 5H1
Phone (506) 453-2122
www.gnb.ca/archives

Archives nationales du Québec (Western Quebec)
Direction des Archives nationales de l'Ouest du Québec
535, avenue Viger est
Montréal QC H2L 2P3
Phone (514) 873-6000

(Eastern Quebec)
Direction des Archives nationales de l'Est du Québec
1210, avenue du Séminaire C.P. 10450
Sainte-Foy QC G1V 4N1
Phone (418) 643-8904
www.anq.gouv.qc.ca

Archives of Ontario
77 Grenville Street, Unit 300
Toronto ON M5S 1B3
Phone (416) 327-1600 or
1-800-668-9933 (Ontario only)
www.archives.gov.on.ca

Provincial Archives of Manitoba
200 Vaughan Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 1T5
Phone (204) 945-3971 or 945-3972
www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/index.html

Saskatchewan Archives Board
Regina Office:
University of Regina
Regina SK S4S 4A2
Phone (306) 787-4068

Saskatoon Office:
University of Saskatchewan
Murray Building
3 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A4
Phone (306) 933-5832
www.saskarchives.com

Provincial Archives of Alberta
12845-102 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5N 0M6
Phone (780) 427-1750
www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/index.asp

British Columbia Archives
655 Belleville Street
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Phone (250) 387-1952
www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca

Yukon Archives
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse YT Y1A 2C6
Phone (867) 667-5321
www.gov.yk.ca/depts/education/libarch/yukarch.html

Archives of the Northwest Territories
c/o Prince of Wales
Northern Heritage Centre
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9
Phone (403) 873-7698
www.pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/

Nunavut Archives
P.O. Box 310
Igloolik NU X0A 0L0
Phone (867) 934-8626
E-mail: eatkinson@gov.nu.ca

ADDRESSES OF MAJOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society
Colonial Building
St. John's NF A1C 2C9

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia
Box 641, Station "Central"
Halifax NS B3J 2T3

Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society
Box 2744
Charlottetown PE C1A 8C4

New Brunswick Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 3235, Station B
Fredericton NB E3A 5G9

Société généalogique canadienne-française
3440, rue Davidson
Montréal QC H1W 2Z5

Société de généalogie de Québec
C.P. 9066
Ste-Foy QC G1V 4A8

Quebec Family History Society
P.O. Box 1026
Pointe-Claire QC H9S 4H9

Ontario Genealogical Society
40 Orchard View Boulevard, Suite 102
Toronto ON M4R 1B9

Manitoba Genealogical Society
1045 St. James St., Unit A
Winnipeg MB R3H 1B1

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society
1870 Lorne Street
2nd Floor, Box 1894
Regina SK S4P 3E1

Alberta Genealogical Society
116 10440-108 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5H 3Z9

Alberta Family Histories Society
Box 30270, Station B
Calgary AB T2M 4P1

British Columbia Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 88054
Lansdowne Mall
Richmond BC V6X 3T6

N.W.T. Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1715
Yellowknife NT X1A 2P3

La Société historique de Saint-Boniface
340 Provencher Boulevard
Saint-Boniface MB R2H 0G7
(Franco-Canadian heritage in western Canada)

Ukrainian Genealogical and Historical Society of Canada
R.R. 2
Cochrane AB T0L 0W0